

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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1.

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soldier's life in Germany, from where he had escaped to the West. He pictured the life of Soviet soldiers and officers in Germany as a slavery under the constantly watchful eyes of political officers, MGB representatives, and undercover agents (seksoty). Having described how the military in Germany were practically locked in their barracks with no contact whatsoever with the local population, the speaker made an appeal to officers and soldiers in Germany to follow his example and to escape to the West, where they would find freedom, democracy, and a chance to regain the human rights of which they had been deprived by the Soviet Government. The speaker spoke very clearly and [REDACTED]. The broadcast was not jammed at all. When the speaker had finished, the announcer informed the listeners, "This is a VOA program broadcast via London (Golos Ameriki cherez London). You have been listening to the broadcast of a former Soviet private (he mentioned the name, which I cannot recall) who decided to choose freedom and asked the US authorities for political asylum. This man is now free and happy in the West."

2.

[REDACTED]

The speaker relayed the report of the 1952 May Day Parade in Moscow's Red Square. He gave the names of the Soviet dignitaries who attended the parade on the stand, and cited the long columns of seemingly happy soldiers, sailors, and airmen. He described the heavy artillery guns and tanks participating in

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the parade and other weapons manufactured in Soviet plants to "protect the peace". Then came masses of boys and girls in military formation and, finally, delegations of Soviet workers carrying red banners glorifying Stalin and expressing the gratitude of the Soviet people for their happy life under his wise rule. But when the celebration was over and the night darkness and spring fog enveloped Red Square another parade took place. There were no military bands, red banners, no roaring planes overhead, and no Soviet dignitaries attending. In complete silence a long column of ghostly human beings in rags moved slowly past the Lenin mausoleum. These were the Soviet citizens sacrificed by the Communist regime for the glory of Stalin and the Communist Party. They were the millions of men, women, and children starved to death and worked to exhaustion by Stalin in kolkhozy or forced labor camps, and murdered in cold blood by the MVD; there came also endless processions of soldiers and airmen killed in World War II defending the Soviet Fatherland against Hitlerite aggression. They had believed in Stalin's promises of freedom and a better life after the war, and they were shamelessly deceived in their hopes. They were followed by be-medaled, incapacitated war veterans--amputees, hungry in rags. Silently, the ghostly column filed through Red Square. With raised fists, the victims of the regime sent their curses and hate to "beloved Stalin". At this moment the jamming became so strong that I could no longer hear the announcer.

no doubt that the other listeners were also very much impressed.

4. It would be wrong to assume that the Soviet population believes in the Soviet propaganda about America and the American people. During the war I had eaten American corned beef and bacon, and had received American clothing as gifts. So did many other Soviet citizens during and after the war. American equipment, trucks, and machinery sent to the USSR during the war were highly praised and admired throughout the country. Not even the Soviet regime and its propaganda could shut the mouth of a Soviet driver who drove an American Studebaker during the War and forbid him to tell his friends of its amazing dependability and power. And no invented stories of atrocities in Korea could switch public opinion against those Americans they used to know during and after World War II.
5. Soldiers who returned from Germany and Austria spread stories of Western life throughout the country. Clean villages, electricity, neat houses, running water, nice furniture, and the high standards of living of Western nations made Soviet people feel miserable and deceived by the regime; since people feel that the government purposely deprives them of any news from abroad, these stories circulate from house to house and from community to community. It was sufficient that one soldier came back to a town; in a couple of days there was no house in town which did not know what news he had brought. It was not necessary for these and similar stories to be accompanied by any comparison with or criticism of Soviet conditions, although this was sometimes done quite openly with close friends; otherwise, the stories were simply related and no comments made. Almost everybody was smart enough, however, to make the necessary comparisons and to draw conclusions for himself. How much harm this did the regime is needless to say.

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